

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 182151 TOSEC 080169
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:NEA:N.A.VELIOTES

APPROVED BY:NEA:NAVELIOTES

S/S:KDROBINSON

-----087399 190804Z /13

P 190738Z JUL 78 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY 8197

S E C R E T STATE 182151 TOSEC 080169

EXDIS FOR STERNER

FOLLOWING REPEAT KUWAIT 3936 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI
CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA LONDON MANAMA TEL AVIV BEIRUT BAGHDAD
JULY 9.

QUOTE: S E C R E T KUWAIT 3936

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, XF, US, KU

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON MID-EAST PEACE

REF: STATE 172477

1. IN MEETING JULY 9 WITH KHALED BABTAIN AND IBRAHIM AL-MOOSA,
SENIOR OFFICIALS OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS DEPT OF MFA, I DREW ON
REFTEL DESCRIBING LATEST USG EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ARAB/ISRAELI
PEACE SETTLEMENT. I STRESSED THAT, IN THE WAKE OF ISRAEL'S
DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE CONCERNING THE WEST BANK AND GAZA
STRIP, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE OF INVITING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 182151 TOSEC 080169

FON MINS KAMEL AND DAYAN TO MEET IN LONDON WITH SECRETARY
VANCE PRESENT. I STATED THAT I REALIZED MANY KUWAITIS ARE
PRESENTLY OPPOSED TO DIRECT ARAB/ISRAELI TALKS BUT THAT THE
USG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL
TO PROGRESS. I SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESENT INITIATIVE
SHOWS THE CONTINUING, UNDIMINISHED US GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT
TO HELPING THE PARTIES FIND A FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE

SETTLEMENT.

2. I SAID THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE PEACE PROCESS IS NOT ONLY WHAT THE PARTIES MAY PUT ON PAPER AT ANY GIVEN TIME, SUCH AS THE CURRENT EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI STATEMENTS, BUT ALSO INTERNAL POLITICAL DEBATE WHICH CAN TAKE A LONG TIME BUT WHICH IS THE ONLY MEANS OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT TOWARD GENUINELY CHANGED POSITIONS. I SAID THAT CONTINUATION OF THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL DEBATE MAY BE BEST STIMULATED BY FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS BOTH FEEL HEAVY PRESSURE NOT TO APPEAR THE PARTY WHICH IS UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE IN EARNEST.

3. BABBAIN RESPONDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT HAS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE PROCESS. HOWEVER, BABBAIN--AND MANY OTHERS--CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAS THE COLLECTIVE WILL TO PURSUE THAT COMMITMENT SUCCESSFULLY. THE ZIONIST LOBBY, HE SAID WILL SURELY BLOCK PRESIDENT CARTER'S EFFORTS.

4. I REMINDED BABBAIN, AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN AMERICAN PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT'S DRAMATIC VISIT TO JERUSALEM, AND THAT THE SENATE VOTE ON THE PRESIDENT'S AIRCRAFT PACKAGE DEAL WAS STRONG EVIDENCE OF THE FACT THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAS MORE ROOM TO MANEUVER ON MID-EAST ISSUES
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 182151 TOSEC 080169

THAN IT USED TO HAVE. I SAID THAT NO ONE IMAGINED NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE WOULD BE QUICK AND EASY AND THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED. AVOIDING LETTING PESSIMISM GOVERN POLICY IS CRUCIAL, I SAID, AND IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE ARAB MODERATES CONTINUE TO SHOW PATIENCE. THEY SHOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN EFFORTS, RATHER THAN SIMPLY PREDICTING THE WORST, STARTING TO CUT LOSSES, AND THEREBY UNDERMINING THE BEST HOPE FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WHICH WE ALL AGREE IS DESPERATELY NEEDED.

5. BABBAIN SAID THAT PATIENCE IS ALL VERY WELL BUT THAT, WHILE THE SLOW PROCESS I HAD DESCRIBED WAS GOING FORWARD, "THE OTHER SIDE" WAS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION AND MAKING GREAT STRIDES FORWARD. HE WAS REFERRING BOTH TO CONTINUING ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND TO SOVIET HAYMAKING IN THE AREA AT AMERICAN EXPENSE. CONTINUING IDENTIFICATION (IN ARAB EYES) OF AMERICA WITH AN INTRANSIGENT ISRAEL PLAYS INTO SOVIET HANDS, BABBAIN SAID. USG SHOULD BE MOVING FASTER TO BRING ISRAEL AROUND, HE IMPLIED, LEST IT LOSE THE GREAT POWER CONTEST FOR THE MIDDLE EAST WHILE VAINLY PURSUING AN ARAB/ISRAELI PEACE.
SUTHERLAND

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEBRIEFINGS, PEACE PLANS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE182151
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:N.A.VELIOTES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780296-0010
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780742/aaaabjik.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 26bcb370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 172477
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1954710
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING ON MID-EAST PEACE
TAGS: PEPR, XF, US, KU, (BABTAIN, KHALED), (AL-MOOSA, IBRAHIM)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/26bcb370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014